UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/756,804	01/13/2004	Tomonori Ishizawa	9319S-000642	1520

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2162	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/756,804	ISHIZAWA, TOMONORI
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Fred I. Ehichioya	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 January 2004*.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1 - 28* is/are pending in the application.
  4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1 - 28* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *13 January 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
    1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *1/13/04*.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This communication is responsive to the instant application (10/756,804)

filed January 13, 2004.

2.   Claims 1– 28 are presented for examination in the instant application.

3.   This application claims priority of foreign application No. 2003-005968,

filed on January 14, 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

4.   The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on January 13,

2004 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the

information disclosure statement is been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
> claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1, paragraph 5 recites the limitation "the information" in the claimed

limitation; there are prior mention of "electronic information" and "identification

information", "server storage information" and "storage location". Examiner is not

able to apprise which of the "information" precedes "the information"; therefore,

there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1, paragraph 6 recites the limitation "stores the file" in the claimed

limitation; Examiner is having a hard time comprehending this limitation of

paragraph 6. Paragraph 6 of this claim states "if the file is not contained in the electronic information, the file management means **_stores the file_** in the storage area. Examiner is not able to apprise which of the "the file" is stored in the storage area"; therefore, there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1, paragraph 7 recites the limitation "the file stored in the storage area" in the claimed limitation; Paragraph 7 of this claim states "access information including storage location information of the file and identification information of the file stored in the storage area". Examiner is not able to apprise where a file is previously stored; therefore, there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 2, paragraph 5 recites the limitation "the file stored in the storage area" in the claimed limitation; Examiner is not able to apprise where a file is previously stored; therefore, there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8, paragraph 3 recites the limitation "the relevant files" in the claimed limitation; there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8, paragraph 6 recites the limitation "stores the file" in the claimed limitation; Examiner is having a hard time comprehending this limitation of

paragraph 6. Paragraph 6 of this claim states "if the file is not contained in the electronic information, the file management means _**stores the file**_ in the storage area. Examiner is not able to apprise which of the "the file" is stored in the storage area"; therefore, there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8, paragraph 7 recites the limitation "the file stored in the storage area" in the claimed limitation; Paragraph 7 of this claim states "access information including storage location information of the file and identification information of the file stored in the storage area". Examiner is not able to apprise where a file is previously stored; therefore, there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 9, paragraph 5 recites the limitation "the file stored in the storage area" in the claimed limitation; Examiner is not able to apprise where a file is previously stored; therefore, there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 11, paragraph 5 recites the limitation "storing the file" in the claimed limitation; Examiner is having a hard time comprehending this limitation of paragraph 6. Paragraph 6 of this claim states "if the file is not contained in the electronic information, _**storing the file**_ ....in a predetermined storage area. Examiner is not able to apprise which of the "the file" is stored in the storage

area"; therefore, there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the

claim.

Claim 11, paragraph 6 recites the limitation "the file and identification

information stored in the storage area" in the claimed limitation; Paragraph 6 of

this claim states "access information including storage location information of the

file and identification information stored in the storage area". Examiner is not able

to apprise where a file or identification information is previously stored; therefore,

there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12, paragraph 4 recites the limitation "updating the server storage

information" and paragraph 5 recites the limitation "the storage area" in the

claimed limitation; there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitations in the

claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35

U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

7.   Claims 1 - 3, 7 – 9, 11 – 13, 17 – 18, 22, 24 and 28 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0016823 issued to

Hiroshi Ueno (Hereinafter "Ueno").

Regarding claim 1, Ueno teaches an attached file management system for

managing an attached file attached to electronic information transmitted and

received by a plurality of

terminal units, the system comprising:

intermediation means which intermediates transmission and reception of

the electronic information (page 3, paragraph 35: Examiner interprets "apparatus

for controlling transmission and reception of electronic mail" as "intermediation

means which intermediates transmission and reception of the electronic

information");

server storage means which stores a plurality of files and server storage

information indicating identification information of the files and storage location

information in a predetermined storage area (pages 5 – 6, paragraph 64:

Examiner interprets "storage device that stores attached files" as "server storage

means which stores a plurality of files");

file management means which determines whether electronic information

transmitted by a terminal unit contains a file (Fig.8 step 12 and page 8,

paragraph 109: step 12 of Fig.8 determines whether there is attached file) and:

if the file is contained in the electronic information, the file

management means determines whether the information exists in the storage

area based on the server storage information (Fig. 8 steps 17 – 24 and page 8,

paragraph 104: Examiner interprets "the receiving party sends the key

information to the mail server 14. In turn, the CPU 61 of the mail server 14

searches through file ID tables for the received key information" as "determining

whether the information exists in the storage area"); and

if the file is not contained in the electronic information, the file

management means stores the file in the storage area and updates the server

storage information (Fig. 7 steps 2, 8 and page 8, paragraph 100: Examiner

interprets "storing received electronic mail and files attached to the mail into

specific regions and updating data in file ID tables within the storage device" as

"storing the file in the storage area and updates the server storage information";

please refer to rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 of claim 1 above); and

if electronic information transmitted by the terminal unit contains the file,

server information generation means which generates, based on the server

storage information, access information including storage location information of the file and identification information of the file stored in the storage area and serving to access the file (page 8, paragraph and 110: Examiner interprets "the CPU 61 generates key information (or a URL and a password) in association with the attached file in question" as "generation means which generates, based on the server storage information, access information including storage location information of the file"; please refer to rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 of claim 1 above),

wherein the intermediation means transmits the access information at least to one of the terminal unit and at least one other of the plurality of terminal units (page 8, paragraph 104: Examiner interprets "key information and attached file is transmitted in small increments to allow for reception by terminal equipment" as "transmits the access information at least to one of the terminal unit").

Regarding claim 2, Ueno teaches an attached file management system for managing information related to an attached file attached to electronic information transmitted and received by a plurality of terminal units, the system comprising:

intermediation means which intermediates transmission and reception of the electronic information (page 3, paragraph 35: Examiner interprets "apparatus for controlling transmission and reception of electronic mail" as "intermediation means which intermediates transmission and reception of the electronic information");

file management means which determines whether electronic information transmitted by a terminal unit contains file-related information including storage location information of a file Fig.7 steps 1, 2 and 8 Examiner interprets "attached file" as "file" and "destination mail server" as "storage location"), and:

if the file-related information is contained in the electronic information, the file management means updates server storage information stored in a predetermined storage area based on the file-related information (Fig. 7 steps 3 – 7 and page 8, paragraph 102); and

if electronic information transmitted by the terminal unit contains the file-related information, server information generation means which generates, based on the server storage information, access information including ,storage location information of the file and identification information of the file stored in the storage area and serving to access the file (page 8, paragraph 110),

wherein the intermediation means transmits the access information to at least one of the terminal unit and at least one other of the plurality of terminal units (page 8,

paragraph 104: Examiner interprets "key information and attached file is transmitted in small increments to allow for reception by terminal equipment" as "transmits the access information at least to one of the terminal unit").

Regarding claim 3, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in claim 1.

Ueno further teaches wherein the electronic information further comprises an electronic mail (see Abstract), and the intermediation means transmits the access information to a transmission-destination terminal unit of the electronic mail (page 1, paragraph 2).

Regarding claim 7, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in claim 3.

Ueno further teaches wherein the file management means manages at least one of an access right of the storage area and the file indicated by the storage location information for each of the terminal units, determines whether the transmission-destination terminal unit has the access right based on an electronic mail transmitted by the terminal unit (page 12, paragraphs 163 - 164: Examiner interprets "password" as "access right"), and

if the transmission-destination terminal unit does not have the access right, the intermediation means transmits the electronic mail transmitted by the terminal unit to the

transmission-destination terminal unit in place of the access information (page 12, paragraph 165).

Claim 8 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it sets forth the claimed invention as a program rather than a system and therefore rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

Claim 9 is essentially the same as claim 2 except that it sets forth the claimed invention as a program rather than a system and therefore rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

Regarding claim 11, Ueno discloses a method of managing an attached file, which serves to manage information related to an attached file attached to electronic information transmitted and received by a plurality of terminal units, the method including steps in which:

a transmission-source terminal unit transmits electronic information to a server (page 11, paragraph 154),

the server performing the steps of:

determining whether electronic information transmitted by a terminal unit contains a file (Fig.8 step 12 and page 8, paragraph 109: step 12 of Fig.8 determines whether there is attached file), and:

if the file is contained in the electronic information, determining whether

the file exists in a predetermined storage area (Fig.8 step 17 and page 8, paragraph

104: paragraph 104 determines if the file exists in a predetermined storage area using

file ID); and

if the file is not contained in the electronic information, storing the file and

server storage information indicating identification information and storage location

information of the file in a predetermined storage area (Fig. 7 steps 2, 8 and page 8,

paragraph 100: Examiner interprets "storing received electronic mail and files attached

to the mail into specific regions and updating data in file ID tables within the storage

device" as "storing the file in the storage area and updates the server storage

information"; please refer to rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 of claim 11 above);

if electronic information transmitted by the terminal unit contains the file,

generating, based on the server storage information, access information including

storage location information of the file and identification information stored in the

storage area and serving to access the file (page 8, paragraph and 110: Examiner

interprets "the CPU 61 generates key information (or a URL and a password) in

association with the attached file in question" as "generation means which generates,

based on the server storage information, access information including storage location

information of the file"; please refer to rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 of claim 11 above);

and

transmitting the access information at least to one of the terminal unit and at least

one other of the plurality of terminal units (page 8, paragraph 104: Examiner interprets

"key information and attached file is transmitted in small increments to allow for

reception by terminal equipment" as "transmits the access information at least to one of

the terminal unit").

Regarding claim 12, Ueno discloses a method of managing an attached file,

which serves to manage information related to an attached file attached to electronic

information transmitted and received by a plurality of terminal units, the method

including steps in which:

a transmission-source terminal unit transmits electronic information to a server

(page 11, paragraph 154),

the server performing the steps of:

determining whether electronic information transmitted by a terminal unit contains

file-related information including storage location information of a file (Fig.8 step 12 and

page 8, paragraph 109: step 12 of Fig.8 determines whether there is attached file);

if the file-related information is contained in the electronic information, updating

the server storage information stored in a predetermined storage area based on the

file-related information (Fig.7 steps S3 – S7 and page 8, paragraph 102: paragraph 102

stores the attached file with file ID which is interpreted as "file-related information" and

updates the storage); and

generating, based on the server storage information, access information

including storage location information of the file and identification information of the file

stored in the storage area and serving to access the file (page 8, paragraph and 110:

Examiner interprets "the CPU 61 generates key information (or a URL and a password) in association with the attached file in question" as "generation means which generates, based on the server storage information, access information including storage location information of the file"; please refer to rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 of claim 12 above); and

transmitting the access information at least to one of the terminal unit and at least one other of the plurality of terminal units (page 8, paragraph 104: Examiner interprets "key information and attached file is transmitted in small increments to allow for reception by terminal equipment" as "transmits the access information at least to one of the terminal unit").

Regarding claim 13, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in claim 11.

Ueno further teaches wherein the electronic information further comprises an electronic mail (see Abstract), and

the server transmits the access information to the transmission-destination terminal unit of the electronic mail (page 1, paragraph 2).

Regarding claim 17, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in
claim 13.

Ueno further teaches managing at least one of an access right of the storage

area and the file indicated by the storage location information for each of the terminal

units; determining whether the transmission-destination terminal unit has the access

right based on an electronic mail transmitted by the terminal unit (page 12, paragraphs

163 - 164: Examiner interprets "password" as "access right"), and if the

transmission-destination terminal unit does not have the access right, transmitting the

electronic mail transmitted by the terminal unit to the transmission-destination terminal

unit in place of the access information (page 12, paragraph 165).

Regarding claim 18, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in

claim 2.

Ueno further teaches wherein the electronic information further comprises an

electronic mail (see Abstract), and

the intermediation means transmits the access information to a

transmission-destination terminal unit of the electronic mail page 1, paragraph 2).

Regarding claim 22, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in

claim 18.

Ueno further teaches wherein the file management means manages at least one

of an access right of the storage area and the file indicated by the storage location

information for each of the terminal units, determines whether the

transmission-destination terminal unit has the access right based on an electronic mail

transmitted by the terminal unit (page 12, paragraphs 163 - 164: Examiner interprets

"password" as "access right"), and

if the transmission-destination terminal unit does not have the access right, the

intermediation means transmits the electronic mail transmitted by the terminal unit to the

transmission-destination terminal unit in place of the access information (page 12,

paragraph 165).

Claim 24 is essentially the same as claim 3 except that it sets forth the claimed

invention as a method rather than a system and therefore rejected for the same reasons

as applied hereinabove.

Regarding claim 28, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in

claim 24.

Ueno further teaches managing at least one of an access right of the storage

area and the file indicated by the storage location information for each of the terminal

units; determining whether the transmission-destination terminal unit has the access

right based on an electronic mail transmitted by the terminal unit (page 12, paragraphs

163 - 164: Examiner interprets "password" as "access right"), and if the

transmission-destination terminal unit does not have the access right, transmitting the

electronic mail transmitted by the terminal unit to the transmission-destination terminal

unit in place of the access information (page 12, paragraph 165).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

9.   Claims 4 – 6, 10, 14 – 16, 19 – 23, and 25 - 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno in view of USPN 7,003,551 issued to Dale W.

Malik (hereinafter "Malik").

    Regarding claim 4, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in

claim 1. Ueno does not explicitly teach update data-and-time as claimed.

    Malik discloses wherein the server storage information includes last update

date-and-time information of the file (column 6, lines 33 – 39: Examiner interprets

"modified data/time" as "update date-and-time"),

    the file management means determines whether there is a duplicate file based

on the file identification information, the last update date-and-time information, and the

server storage information at least at one of regular time intervals and in response to a

user request, and if there is a duplicate file, the file management means deletes the

duplicate file which does not have the latest last update date and time (column 3, lines 20 – 24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time of the present invention to combine the cited references because Malik's teaching of "modified data/time" would allow Ueno's system to categorize all received electronic mails and attached files. The motivation is that time-stamping these files will simplify determining when each file is received and which of the file is most recent. This process will prevent unnecessary deletion of most current file and attachment.

Regarding claim 5, Ueno and Malik disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed in claim 4.

Malik further teaches wherein, if there is a duplicate file, the server information generation means generates a file-clean-up electronic mail prompting the user to clean up the files (column 7, lines 47 – 50), and

the intermediation means transmits the file-clean-up electronic mail to the transmission-source terminal unit (column 7, 44 – 46).

Regarding claim 6, Ueno and Malik disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed in claim 4.

Malik further teaches wherein the terminal unit includes:

terminal information generation means for generating electronic information (column 1, lines 24 – 31) including identification information (column 5, line 30) and storage location information of the file (Fig.2 step 23);

communication means for transmitting and receiving the electronic information (column 6, lines 2 – 5);

terminal storage means for storing terminal storage information indicating identification information and storage location information of a plurality of the files in a predetermined storage area (column 5, line 64 – column 6, line 1); and

update means for updating the file and the terminal storage information (column 5, lines 58 – 61),

wherein:

if there is a duplicate file, the server information generation means generates file-deletion information in order to delete the duplicated file that does not have the latest last-update date and time (column 6, lines 33 – 39);

the intermediation means transmits the file-deletion information to the transmission-source terminal unit of the electronic information (column 7, lines 44 – 46);

and the update means deletes the duplicate file that does not have the latest last-update date and time based on the file-deletion information, and updates the terminal storage information (column 3, lines 20 – 24).

Regarding claim 10, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in

claim 8.

However, Malik teaches an information storage medium, which is a

computer-readable information storage medium, for storing a program (Fig.2 step 23)

Regarding claim 14, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in

claim 11.

However, Malik teaches wherein the server storage information includes

last-update date-and-time information of the file (column 6, lines 33 – 39),

the server determines whether there is a duplicate file based on the file

identification information and the server storage information at least at one of regular

time intervals and in response to a user request, and if there is a duplicate file, the

server deletes the duplicate file (column 3, lines 20 – 24).

Regarding claim 15, Ueno and Malik disclose the claimed subject matter as

discussed in claim 14.

However, Malik teaches wherein the server performs the steps of:

generating a file-clean-up electronic mail prompting the user to clean up the files

if there is a duplicate file (column 7, lines 47 – 50); and

transmitting the file-clean-up electronic mail to the transmission-source terminal

unit (column 7, lines 44 – 46).

Regarding claim 16, Ueno and Malik disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed in claim 14.

However, Malik teaches wherein the terminal unit performs the steps of:

storing a plurality of the files (column 2, lines 22 – 26) and terminal storage information indicating identification information (column 5, lines 29 – 30) and storage location information of the files in a predetermined storage area (column 5, line 64 – column 6, line 1); and

generating electronic information including update means for updating the file and the terminal storage information (column 5, lines 58 – 61), and

the identification information of the files (column 5, lines 29 – 30) and storage location information of the files (column 5, lines 64 – 66),

the server performing the steps of:

if there is a duplicate file, generating a file-deletion electronic mail in order to delete the duplicate file (column 6, lines 33 – 39); and

transmitting the file-deletion electronic mail to the transmission-source terminal unit (column 7, lines 44 – 46), and

the terminal unit performing the steps of:

deleting the duplicate file based on the file-deletion electronic mail, and updating the terminal storage information (column 3, lines 20 – 24).

Regarding claim 19, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in claim 2. Ueno does not explicitly teach update data-and-time as claimed.

Malik discloses wherein the server storage information includes last update date-and-time information of the file (column 6, lines 33 – 39: Examiner interprets "modified data/time" as "update date-and-time"),

the file management means determines whether there is a duplicate file based on the file identification information, the last update date-and-time information, and the server storage information at least at one of regular time intervals and in response to a user request, and if there is a duplicate file, the file management means deletes the duplicate file which does not have the latest last update date and time (column 3, lines 20 – 24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time of the present invention to combine the cited references because Malik's teaching of "modified data/time" would allow Ueno's system to categorize all received electronic mails and attached files. The motivation is that time-stamping these files will simplify determining when each file is received and which of the file is most recent. This process will prevent unnecessary deletion of most current file and attachment.

Regarding claim 20, Ueno and Malik disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed in claim 19.

Malik further teaches wherein, if there is a duplicate file, the server information generation means generates a file-clean-up electronic mail prompting the user to clean up the files (column 7, lines 47 – 50), and

the intermediation means transmits the file-clean-up electronic mail to the transmission-source terminal unit (column 7, 44 – 46).

Regarding claim 21, Ueno and Malik disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed in claim 19.

Malik further teaches wherein the terminal unit includes:

terminal information generation means for generating electronic information (column 1, lines 24 – 31) including identification information (column 5, line 30) and storage location information of the file (Fig.2 step 23);

communication means for transmitting and receiving the electronic information (column 6, lines 2 – 5);

terminal storage means for storing terminal storage information indicating identification information and storage location information of a plurality of the files in a predetermined storage area (column 5, line 64 – column 6, line 1); and

update means for updating the file and the terminal storage information (column 5, lines 58 – 61),

wherein:

if there is a duplicate file, the server information generation means generates

file-deletion information in order to delete the duplicated file that does not have the

latest last-update date and time (column 6, lines 33 – 39);

the intermediation means transmits the file-deletion information to the

transmission-source terminal unit of the electronic information (column 7, lines 44 – 46);

and the update means deletes the duplicate file that does not have the latest

last-update date and time based on the file-deletion information, and updates the

terminal storage information (column 3, lines 20 – 24).

Regarding claim 23, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in

claim 9.

However, Malik teaches an information storage medium, which is a

computer-readable information storage medium, for storing a program (Fig.2 step 23)

Regarding claim 25, Ueno discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed in

claim 12.

However, Malik teaches wherein the server storage information includes

last-update date-and-time information of the file (column 6, lines 33 – 39),

the server determines whether there is a duplicate file based on the file

identification information and the server storage information at least at one of regular

time intervals and in response to a user request, and if there is a duplicate file, the

server deletes the duplicate file (column 3, lines 20 – 24).

Regarding claim 26, Ueno and Malik disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed in claim 25.

However, Malik teaches wherein the server performs the steps of:

generating a file-clean-up electronic mail prompting the user to clean up the files if there is a duplicate file (column 7, lines 47 – 50); and

transmitting the file-clean-up electronic mail to the transmission-source terminal unit (column 7, lines 44 – 46).

Regarding claim 27, Ueno and Malik disclose the claimed subject matter as discussed in claim 25.

However, Malik teaches wherein the terminal unit performs the steps of:

storing a plurality of the files (column 2, lines 22 – 26) and terminal storage information indicating identification information (column 5, lines 29 – 30) and storage location information of the files in a predetermined storage area (column 5, line 64 – column 6, line 1); and

generating electronic information including update means for updating the file and the terminal storage information (column 5, lines 58 – 61), and

the identification information of the files (column 5, lines 29 – 30) and storage location information of the files (column 5, lines 64 – 66),

the server performing the steps of:

if there is a duplicate file, generating a file-deletion electronic mail in order to delete the duplicate file (column 6, lines 33 – 39); and

transmitting the file-deletion electronic mail to the transmission-source terminal

unit (column 7, lines 44 – 46), and

the terminal unit performing the steps of:

deleting the duplicate file based on the file-deletion electronic mail, and updating

the terminal storage information (column 3, lines 20 – 24).
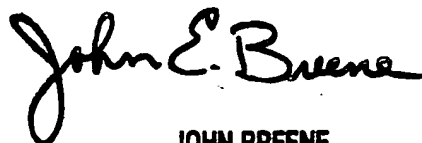
Conclusion

10.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Fred I. Ehichioya whose telephone number is 571-272-

4034. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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August 21, 2006

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